

Great Basin Prevention/Education/Mitigation Meeting Notes

Salt Lake City, UT January 24 -25, 2011

Members present: Tyre Holfeltz, Loren Walker, David Eaker, Harry Steele, Susan Marzec, Ruta Glinski, Reid Shelley

January 24

Welcome and Introductions

Susan welcomed all those in attendance.

Jon Skinner will not be part of this group any longer as he has taken a job at the national level as the BLM Prevention, Mitigation, and Education lead. (per Harry/Susan)

Blaine, the former BIA representative is now working for the BLM which means the committee will need another BIA rep. (per Tyre)

Tracy Swenson with USFWS is interested in receiving the notes but doesn't have the time to attend the meetings. (per Tyre)

National Overview

A new program to be used by school teachers to help teach Smokey's message has rolled out nationally. (per Loren)

On February 14 there is a national meeting to discuss changes in signs and other materials. A contract will be let to deal with and update the signs.

Folks from Firewise are making visits to states to inform potential participants about the program and other NFPA programs. The State of Utah has had several of these visits over the years and the next one will be this coming February 14- 15 with Molly Mowery and Ray Bizal.

The Cohesive Strategy is coming. It is yet to be seen what kinds of effects there will be on existing programs.

Prevention Team

There were no new nominations.

There is still a need to get an agency (non-A.D.) team lead. Several potentials were discussed. However, it was determined that P-410 "should" be taken first by the individuals prior to

making them a team lead. It is a five day course. There are a few states with local teams which seem to be meeting the immediate prevention needs. The group decided that everyone in the group needs to maintain our GB Prevention team contact information.

Susan suggested that we make sure that all of the team members and their alternates are still willing and available to meet the specific rotations this year.

Wildland Fire Awareness Week

The Wildland Fire Awareness week has been going for five years in some states. It occurs annually in May and specifically from May 1-7 in 2011. Current participants in the program are: NV, OR, CA, ID, AK.

Ruta requested that Utah become a member of the group by having the governor sign the multi-state proclamation. Tyre will send the info as it comes to the appropriate folks in his Department and will also talk with the State Fire Marshals offices about support the awareness week. The Utah Communication Committee will be advised of the request and handle potential activities during the week as well.

Idaho will unveil its new Guberif campaign during the Wildland Fire Awareness week. NV and other states also have a very active program as part of the awareness week. Loren asked for info to be sent to him so that he could forward info along to the AD-Council.

Group Purpose

Ideas were shared with the group to include:

- Starter Kit for new hires
- Education (sponsor courses)
- Fire Prevention Workshop (conference type)
- Coordination/Guidance
- Statistics Gathering
- Workshops

Notes from the Utah Communications Committee were reviewed.

- Training was the primary request
- PIO, signing, introduction to programs was an additional request.

A strategic plan was once used by the group and it was suggested that we need to update the current version as it is now out of date. (Agenda item for next meeting)

Loren said that we need to be careful how much we take on as a group due to the small numbers that make up the group as we task ourselves with jobs.

Charter

Some additional members were recommended by the committee:

- The State of Wyoming
- Additional Forest Service Reps from Eastern and Western Idaho

Additionally, the committee would like to see an effort made to include one or more BIA representatives and Fish and Wildlife representation (possibly Mirriam Morrel from USFWS or an individual from National Elk Refuge). Susan will take these requests to the GBCG.

Change in tenure of the Chair from one (1) to two (2) years so that there is greater consistency. Tyre as the current Vice-Chair will take the role of Chair for the next two years. Ruta was voted in as the new Vice-Chair and will also fill the position for the next two years.

It was also agreed that the charter should include the committee's responsibility to recruit and select GB Prevention team members. Suggested text is:

6. Recruit and select national prevention team members for the Great Basin.

The group agreed that Ad Hoc members are welcome to attend the meetings, but will not be voting members.

There was discussion about the need to have someone to do some of the administrative responsibilities, including note taking, for the committee. This would be done to acquaint others with this group.

Conference (Rocky Mountain)

The Rocky Mountain Conference info is on the Web and registration is now open. There was a request from the committee that more information be provided, such as topics/agenda. There was some discussion that the location in West Yellowstone might change due to some problems with rooms, but more information will come out soon regarding any changes.

It was pointed out that the current info has some conflicting information. Harry will take that back to the Northern Rockies committee.

Conference (Great Basin)

Location for the GB/NR conference in 2012 was discussed. Nevada will take the lead with Patty Eder possibly acting as the chair of Nevada's committee. **Mesquite** was recommended as the location for that conference.

At the 2012 conference we would like to provide experience through the supplementation of existing training with hands on classes/events, such as:

- Messaging – How To
- School Programs
- Patrolling
- Identifying Targets and how to reach them
- The proactive approach to prevention

Loren is going to try and attend the Region 2 Prevention Conference and bring back ideas that we can use to help put together our conference.

Forest Service Signs

The current Unicom signs are being reviewed and comments are still being accepted by Loren or Reid but are due to them by February 11. There is a contract in Region 2 that will be used to compile all the suggested changes and provide info back to the review committee for further review.

The committee was asked to look at the signs and identify:

- That the message is still appropriate
- That specific target audiences are defined
- That any messages not currently in use but are needed are moved forward

Harry said that Idaho has a sign that is available on the web that she would like to see moved forward. Reid said there is a need to separate the messages of Forest Health and Prevention.

Round Robin

There was discussion about CARs lists, how they currently function, and how they will be used in the future.

Secure Rural Schools Title III discussion. Idaho has seen an increase in Firewise communities due to how this money is being utilized. Idaho is also using some of that money to fund maintenance of projects within counties.

Susan said that the GBCG committee representative would like a brief outline before every GBCG meeting describing what the Prevention Committee has been doing. As outgoing chair, Susan will prepare the briefing paper for the next GBCG meeting (scheduled at the same time as the team meetings) and Ruta, if available, will represent the committee at that meeting.

Idaho

- Had a good Wildland Conference
- The Idaho Fire Planning group is meeting 1-27-2011
- Idaho Firewise is meeting 1-26-2011

- They have a new Landscape calendar
- Working on updating the Idaho Firewise brochure, should be out soon
- Changed the color of the gloves for "Think Before You Burn" for the next year
- Project Learning Tree – has a Wildfire and Weeds class
- Radio campaign was very successful that ended up morphing into T.V. advertisements.
 - o Jon Skinner had pre-produced ads and they ended up being shown through the fall.
- The web-sites for Keep Idaho Green and Idaho Firewise went live Spring of 2010.
- The BLM granted to Idaho for coordinator position with Idaho Firewise
- Idaho now has 15 Firewise communities
- There will be future workshops for communities

Nevada

- WUI conference in fall (end of Sept. early Oct.) this will be the fifth year of the conference. The target audience has changed slightly but is still getting the right folks.
- Fire Safe Council meeting in April, will be cancelled because of duplication with the fall WUI conference. A meeting will be tagged on to the WUI conference for the membership.
- Fire Safe is on Facebook and Twitter
- First week of May is Wildland Fire Awareness Week
- BLM Staffing
 - o 1 person covers 2/3 of state
 - o 1 person in Vegas as Mit/Ed/Fire Planning/Hz Fuels/IC
 - o 1 person in Carson City is new to position
 - o 1 person in Elko as a fire investigator
- USFS Staffing
 - o Patty Eider is the Prevention/Ed person at the State level, she has the following:
 - 1 person in Ely is new
 - 2 seasonals in Vegas

Utah

- State Communications committee report from Susan. They deal with all things fire specifically:
 - o Smoke Ed and being more proactive
 - o Better communication through better coordination
 - o Stop It Before It Starts was ended following the 2010 fire season
 - o Fed funding went towards last year's conference
 - o Group is going to try and focus on a defensible space message instead of prevention.
 - o Are in the process of updating their NFP Report Card. The emphasis has changed to focus more on defensible space and CWPP's.

- BLM
 - All positions are filled
 - There is a Trespass detailer in the State office
- USFS
 - All positions are filled
 - New Teachers writing Guide is available
 - The North End of Utah has four 13/13 positions now
- State
 - Utah Living with Fire is moving forward with a new board and newly adopted by laws.
 - Lack of funding of the last year is forcing a change in programmatic delivery for the time being.
- NPS
 - Dave is now has the responsibility of the Colorado Parks as well

Next Meeting

We will have a morning meeting at the West Yellowstone Prevention Conference

Our fall meeting has been scheduled in Mesquite, Nevada for October 12th-13th. A location will be sent to the group by Ruta.